

Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station

CIRCULAR No. 139

WOOSTER, OHIO, JUNE 15, 1913

THE COUNTY EXPERIMENT FARM LAW

Following is the text of the law authorizing the establishment of county experiment farms in Ohio as amended by the last General Assembly:

Sec. 97. In order to demonstrate the practical application under local conditions of the results of the investigations of the Ohio Agricultural Experiment Station, and for the purpose of increasing the effectiveness of the agriculture of the various counties of the state, the commissioners of any county in the state are hereby authorized and empowered to establish an experiment farm within such county as hereinafter provided for.

Sec. 98. The county experiment farms established under this act shall be used for the comparison of varieties and methods of culture of field crops, fruits and garden vegetables; for the exemplification of methods for controlling insect pests, weeds and plant diseases; for experiments in the feeding of domestic animals and in the control of animal diseases; for illustrations of the culture of forest trees and the management of farm woodlots; and for the demonstration of the effects of drainage, crop rotation, manures and fertilizers, or for such part of the above lines of work as it may be practicable to carry on.

Sec. 99. Upon the filing of a petition with the county auditor signed by not less than five percent of the electors, based upon the vote for governor at the last preceding election, residing within the county, the commissioners of such county shall submit to the qualified

voters of such county a proposition to establish an experiment farm within such county, and to issue notes or bonds for the purchase and equipment of such farm, such proposition to be voted upon at the next general election following the receipt of the petition by the commissioners. Notice of the intention to submit such proposition shall be published by the county commissioners in two newspapers of opposite politics printed and of general circulation in said county, for at least four weeks prior to the election at which the proposition is to be voted upon, together with a statement of the maximum amount of money which it is proposed to expend in the purchase and equipment of such farm.

Sec. 100. The county auditor shall file a written request with the board of deputy supervisors of elections asking for the preparation of the necessary ballots, which ballots shall be separate and apart from all other ballots, and which ballots shall have printed thereon "Tax for experiment farm—Yes;" "Tax for experiment farm—No." The result of such election shall be ascertained by the board of deputy supervisors of elections and the result thereof certified to the county auditor.

Sec. 101. If a majority of the electors voting on such proposition in the county are in favor of establishing such experiment farm, then the commissioners of the county shall levy a tax on all the taxable property in such county as listed for taxation on the county duplicate, which levy shall not exceed one-fifth of one mill on the dollar of the taxable property of the county in any one year, nor shall the aggregate of all levies for such purpose exceed two mills on the dollar.

Sec. 102. To anticipate the collection of the tax authorized by this act and the use of the money to be raised thereby, the commissioners are hereby authorized and required, within ninety days from the date of the election at which such bonds have been authorized, to issue the notes or bonds of their county. Such notes or bonds shall bear interest at a rate not to exceed six percent per annum, and shall run not to exceed ten years, and shall not be sold for less than their par value, and the proceeds of the sale thereof shall be deposited in the county treasury subject to the order of the agricultural commission to be applied by the agricultural commission to the purchase and equipment of an experiment farm, containing eighty acres or more, as hereinafter provided for.

Sec. 103. When the funds provided for in this act are deposited in the county treasury, the commissioners shall notify the agricultural commission of their action, on receipt of which notice it shall be the duty of the agricultural commission to visit the county and select a farm for the purpose specified in this act.

Sec. 104. The equipment of an experiment farm shall consist of such buildings, drains, fences, implements, live stock, stock feed and teams as shall be deemed necessary by the agricultural commission for the successful work of such farm, and the initial equipment shall be provided by the county in which the farm is established, together with a sufficient fund to pay the wages of the laborers required to conduct the work of such farm during the first season. With the beginning of operations of said farm the county commissioners shall appropriate for the payment of the wages of the laborers employed in the management of such farms as may be established under this act, and for the purchase of supplies and materials necessary to the proper conduct of such farms such sums not exceeding two thousand dollars annually for any farm, as may be required by the agricultural commission, said agricultural commission to render an annual itemized financial statement to the board of county commissioners of all receipts and expenditures connected with the management of the experiment farms.

Sec. 105. The management of all county experiment farms established under authority of this act shall be vested in the director of the Ohio agricultural experiment station, who shall appoint all employees and plan and execute the work to be carried on, in such manner as in his judgment will most effectively serve the agricultural interests of the county in which such farm may be located, the director and all employees being governed by the general rules and regulations of the agricultural commission.

Sec. 106. Before entering upon any line of investigation or demonstration upon any of the county experiment farms established under this act, the director of the experiment station shall submit a written plan of such contemplated work to an advisory board, consisting of the county agricultural society of the county in which such experiment farm may be located, or if there be no county agricultural society, then of the board of county commissioners of such county, and if such plan is not approved by such advisory board, then the work shall not be undertaken.

Sec. 107. The county commissioners of any county may assign to the agricultural commission, without a vote of the people, such portion of any farm now owned or hereafter acquired by the county as may be mutually agreed upon between the commissioners and the agricultural commission, the land thus assigned to be occupied and used by the Ohio agricultural experiment station for the purpose specified in this act and under the management of the director of the station.

Sec. 108. The produce of each of such experiment farms as may be established under this act, over and above that required for the support of the teams and live stock kept on the farm, shall be sold and the proceeds applied to the payment of the labor and to the purchase of the supplies and materials required for the proper management of the farm as contemplated by this act, and for the maintenance of its equipment. All surplus beyond these requirements shall be covered into the county treasury and placed to the credit of the general fund of the county, except in the case of the use of farms already belonging to the county, in which case the proceeds shall be placed to the credit of such fund as the county commissioners may designate.

Sec. 109. In case the experiment station shall cease to use for the purposes herein specified any farm established under this act, such farm and its equipment shall be sold at public auction to the highest bidder after notice of such proposed sale shall have been published for four consecutive weeks in two newspapers of opposite politics, once a week, published in and having the largest circulation in the county within which the farm is located, and the proceeds of such sale shall be covered into the county treasury, the sums thus covered to be placed to the credit of the school funds of the county.

Passed April 13, 1910.

Amended April 14 and 15, 1913.